

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 NSC-05  
ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 EA-07 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01  
OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W  
-----121485 200228Z /64

R 192316Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, XO  
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE

REFS: A) STATE 166216; B) MOSCOW 10295; C) STATE 148778

1. AMB LEONARD MET JULY 19 WITH INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN AMERASHINHE TO DELIVER LETTER CONTAINING US  
RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S APRIL 14 INVITATION. FULL TEXT AS  
DELIVERED SET OUT PARA 5 BELOW (ALTERED FIRST PARAGRAPH REFLECTS  
FACT THAT LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO AMERISINGHE RATHER THAN ACTING  
CHAIRMAN JOEWONO, WHO SENT INVITATION).

2. LEONARD EXPLAINED THAT U.S. REPLY, THOUGH NOT  
REFLECTING ANY CHANGE OF POSITION ON SUBSTNATIVE ISSUES,  
DID REPRESENT SHIFT IN US ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE  
IN EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL  
MANNER. HE ADDED THAT, IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS SPIRIT OF  
COOPERATION, U.S. WOULD SHORTLY PROVIDE COMMITTEE  
WITH INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF FIRST ROUND OF US-SOVIET  
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TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN.

3. AMERASINGHE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH US RESPONSE,  
SAYING THAT WHILE IT WAS A SMALL STEP IT WAS NONETHELESS  
WELCOME. HE STRESSED SRI LANKA'S LONG-TERM APPROACH  
TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, SAYING THERE WOULD  
BE NO EFFORT TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS OR INFRINGE ANY RIGHTS

WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF ALL CONCERNED. HE SAID HE WOULD SEND FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US REPLY.

4. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH AMERASINGHE, MISOFF PROVIDED COPY OF RESPONSE TO SOVIET MISOFF TULINOV AND EXPLAINED BACKGROUND. TULINOV SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM MOSCOW ON THIS SUBJECT AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR EXPLANATION. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH AMB LEONARD, SOV REP OVINNIKOV SIMILARLY EXPRESSED IGNORANCE ABOUT MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS WITH AD HOC COMMITTEE.

5. FOLLOWING IS FINAL TEXT AS GIVEN TO AMERASINGHE:  
QUOTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

IN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG DATED APRIL 14, 1977, THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND TO COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL MANNER WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO THAT INVITATION, I HAVE THE HONOR TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING TO YOU AND TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

THE UNITED STATES FULLY SHARES THE DESIRE OF THE INDIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCEAN LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES THAT THE REGION NOT BECOME AN ARENA FOR MILITARY COMPETITION ON THE PART OF OUTSIDE POWERS. PRESIDENT CARTER, AS YOU KNOW, HAS STATED THAT WE ARE WILLING TO JOIN THE SOVIET UNION IN SEEKING WAYS TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL MILITARY RESTRAINT IN THE REGION. WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS IN MOSCOW IN MARCH, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND USSR JOINTLY EXPLORE THIS ISSUE. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY INITIATED TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

WE ARE THUS READY TO WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION. WE REMAIN UNCONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT AN INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN THIS SAME GOAL, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXTEND ITS PRACTICAL COOPERATION TO THE COMMITTEE BY KEEPING IT INFORMED OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON ITS WORK AND BE OF INTEREST TO ITS MEMBERS.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST RESPECTFULLY DECLINE TO

PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS HAVING AS THEIR EXPRESS  
PURPOSE THE FORMULATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTION LEADING  
TO THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE. WE LOOK FORWARD,  
HOWEVER, TO SHARING VIEWS WITH STATES OF THE REGION AND  
OTHERS ON HOW BEST TO PROTECT THE PEACE AND SECURITY  
OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

SINCERELY, JAMES F. LEONARD

ACTING UNQUOTE

LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 166216, 77 MOSCOW 10295, 77 STATE 148778  
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**Review Markings:**  
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